

REMARKS

I. Introduction

In response to the Office Action dated November 20, 2009, claims 1-6 have been amended. Claims 1-6 remain in the application. Re-examination and re-consideration of the application, as amended, are respectfully requested.

II. Claim Amendments

Applicant's attorney has made amendments to the claims as indicated above. Unless otherwise indicated, these amendments were made solely for the purpose of clarifying the language of the claims, and were not required for patentability or to distinguish the claims over the prior art.

III. Prior Art Rejections

In paragraph (3) of the Office Action, claims 1-6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious in view of the combination of Freeman et al., U.S. Publication 2002/0188943 (Freeman) and Rainville et al., U.S. Publication 2002/0069411 (Rainville).

The Freeman Reference

Freeman is cited as teaching selection of the camera angles as follows:

[0030] A. The Control Studio

[0031] The interactive broadcast program is prepared at the control studio 5 into digital packages. The control studio 5, as shown in FIG. 1, allows a producer to create and introduce interactive elements during a live broadcast. **In one preferred embodiment, the producer pre-records a set of interrogatories or instructions for the user.** These interrogatories may include such questions as the following:

[0032] **SELECT THE CAMERA ANGLES/OPTIONS THAT YOU PREFER:**

[0033] OPTIONS: END-ZONE

[0034] FIFTY YARD LINE

[0035] FOCUS ON THE QUARTERBACK

[0036] FOCUS ON THE DEFENSE

[0037] FOCUS ON THE CHEERLEADERS

[0038] PROVIDE HIGHLIGHTS

[0039] WHO IS YOUR FAVORITE TEAM IN THE GAME?

[0040] OPTIONS: BLUE TEAM

[0041] RED TEAM

[0042] WHO IS YOUR FAVORITE PLAYER IN THE GAME?

[0043] OPTIONS: RED RUNNER

[0044] BLUE QUARTERBACK

[0045] BLUE DEFENSIVE END

[0046] RED QUARTERBACK

[0047] ETC.

[0048] ARE YOU INTERESTED IN RECEIVING STATISTICAL SUMMARIES?

[0049] WOULD YOU ENJOY LISTENING TO PLAYER INTERVIEWS DURING THE GAME?

[0050] **Such interrogatories can be presented to the viewer at the beginning of the broadcast or scattered throughout the program. Interactive responses to such interrogatories would include video, audio and graphics personalized to the particular viewer. The preparation of the graphics for presenting such interrogatories occurs off-line at the control studio 5 using chyron or any graphics language. These interrogatories or instructions will ultimately be displayed to the home viewer, preferably in the form of graphics, to facilitate the interactive responses.** The producer creates these graphic video slides of questions on a computer using the text editor and chyron. Associated with each question, the producer enters a number of possible viewer options. Then, the producer relates each possible user entry to one or more corresponding interactive responses. If the response is information from an Internet Web page, the producer will indicate the particular Uniform Resource Locator (URL) of the Web page. **The producer sets a time stamp for when each particular question will appear during the program. As explained below in more detail, the viewer response to a query will be used to direct which video (and/or audio, graphics, or Web page) option will be provided to the viewer.** In the present

invention, the interactive response to the query can occur immediately following the entry of the viewer entry or at some predetermined later time in the program **using "trigger points," 500 as explained in detail below.** (Emphasis added).

The Claims Are Patentable Over The Cited References

The claims of the present invention describe methods and user interfaces for allowing a user to select from and view a plurality of video images each representing a unique camera angle captured by one or more cameras at an event at a given venue to provide camera angle displays. A user interface in accordance with one or more embodiments of the present invention comprises software for providing images to a viewing device, said viewing device further including on-screen indicia to a viewing device to facilitate navigation between said camera angle displays, said on-screen indicia comprises a transparent bar, a display of navigation keys to provide the user with directional navigation instructions, and a textual description of a current camera angle display being viewed, all superimposed upon said viewing device, and video image selection means for providing a user with a means of selecting from a variety of said camera angle displays for viewing said event, the video image selection means being accessible to the user at any time during the event, such that selecting a particular camera angle from the variety of camera angles directly changes from the current camera angle to the particular camera angle at the time of selecting the particular camera angle.

The cited references do not teach or suggest the limitations of the present invention. Specifically, the cited references do not teach or suggest at least the limitation of the video image selection means being accessible to the user at any time during the event as recited in the claims of the present invention.

Discussion

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the detailed response to the previously submitted arguments, and apologizes for any confusion that any prior arguments may have created.

Rainville is not cited for selection of camera angles, and Applicant believes that Rainville does not teach selection of camera angles. Thus, Applicant will limit the present discussion to the Freeman reference.

The Office Action relies upon Freeman to teach selection of the camera angles. Applicant agrees that Freeman teaches viewer interrogatories for preferred camera angles in

[0032], however, Applicant respectfully suggests that Freeman teaches that the interrogatories are either presented at the beginning of the broadcast, or periodically scattered in the broadcast, and are not available throughout the broadcast as recited in the claims of the present invention.

Freeman [0050] states that the interrogatories are presented to the viewer either at the beginning of the broadcast or scattered throughout the broadcast based on "trigger points" 500. In other words, the Freeman system only allows changing camera angles at the beginning of the broadcast or at predetermined times within the broadcast, such predetermined times being controlled by the producer, not the viewer.

Further, as mentioned in Freeman [0050], the interrogatories are presented as graphic video slides made with a text editor and the chyron, and thus, there must be predetermined locations to insert these graphics into the broadcast video stream, or the interrogatories would be continuously displayed with the broadcast. Thus, Freeman must teach that, at the beginning and/or at predetermined times, and only at these times, will there be an interrogatory presented to the viewer to select a different camera angle.

Thus, Freeman teaches, at best, that the video image selection means is accessible to the user at the beginning of the event and/or director-determined times during the event, because when the video image selection means is accessible in Freeman, it is a text graphic that either replaces the video broadcast or is overlaid upon the video broadcast at the pre-determined trigger points 500 entered by the director.

Freeman's intermittent access to the video image selection means, where access is limited to pre-entered trigger points 500, cannot teach or suggest at least the limitation of the video image selection means being accessible to the user at any time during the event as recited in the claims of the present invention, because then the trigger points 500 would be unnecessary. Freeman relies upon the trigger points 500 to interrogate the viewer; without them, the interrogatories, including selection of camera angles, would not be presented to the viewer.

Moreover, the various elements of Applicant's claimed invention together provide operational advantages over Freeman and Rainville. In addition, Applicant's invention solves problems not recognized by Freeman and Rainville.

Thus, Applicant submits that independent claims 1-6 are allowable over Freeman and Rainville.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the above, it is submitted that this application is now in good order for allowance and such allowance is respectfully solicited. Should the Examiner believe minor matters still remain that can be resolved in a telephone interview, the Examiner is urged to call Applicant's undersigned attorney.

Should any fees be associated with this submission, please charge Deposit Account 50-0383.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: February 17, 2010

By: _____

Name: Todd N. Snyder

Reg. No.: 41,320

The DIRECTV Group, Inc.
CA/LA1/A109
2230 E. Imperial Highway
El Segundo CA 90245
Telephone No. 310-964-0560